And Life to Those Who Are Out Is Brear and Destitute-The Explanation Obvious to Those Who Know What the Assemblies Mean to Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22.-Rumors are abroad that it is going to be anything but a merry, merry Christmas for the McFadden home at Nineteenth and Delancev streets. No, the financial depression has nothing to do with it. Santa Claus has regularly remembered the McFaddens for some years now and there is excellent reason to suppose that no McFadden stocking will be neglected this year. But what matter all other earthly Philadelphian joys if one is not included in THE PHILADELPHIA ASSEMBLIES? And, oh, woe, it now appears certain that this year at least the McFaddens will not be invited.

Meaning principally Mrs. J. Franklin McFadden and her débutante daughter, sa Katharine Hynson McFadden. J Franklin McFadden himself must be reck oned with, of course, but he is only the man behind the dough. Everybody in Philadelphia knows all about the McFaddens, of course, but for the benefit of those benighted souls who have the bad taste to live elsewhere it ought to be said that J. Franklin is a son of George H., who has made millions in cotton.

But the McFadden ancestors were not as shrewd and far seeing as their descendants. In fact, the McFadden forefathers made a pretty bad break. Not one of them had the foresight away back in the seventeen hundreds to forget all else and cleave alone unto the ASSEMBLIES. In fact, it now appears that not until the present generation did any McFadden ever appreciate the really vital importance of such a move. But they appreciate it now. There is no doubt of that. And for two years the moss grown gates have been shuddering under the sturdy blows of McFadden fists. But there's pretty stout stuff in those gates. They may have shuddered, but they haven't fallen up to date.

Writing from Philadelphia, it come pretty hard to have to explain about the ASSEMBLIES. But since needs must, here

To put it mildly then, you might as well be dead as to live in Philadelphia and not be in the ASSEMBLIES. You might just as well go and throw your feeble, ineffective body into the river and have done with it. To be sure, there are only about 1,500 persons who are IN and at the last census there were 1,293,697 persons er-existing in this town, leaving a total of 1,292,197 who are our. It's hard to see why they all keep going, but deep hidden in each human breast is found the instinct to live—or some such thing. It's one of the insoluble mysteries of creation, maybe. Of course, the case of the McFaddens is different. They still have hopes, but as for the rest—well,

it's a puzzier. So, as we were saying, the ASSEMBLIES got going in 1748 and with the exception of the years of the Revolutionary fighting and three or four more years in the early part of the last century they've been going ever since. And those that are IN are IN and those that are OUT are OUT, and very much

Because, you see, only the most extraordinary combination of circumstances will get you in if none of your progenitors was in before you. Of course it sometimes happens that some person whose great-great-great-grandfather used to throw dollars across the Potomac River with George Washington and who hadn't pre-viously lived in Philadelphia makes up his mind for some obscure reason to come to reside here. Occasionally, if these persons seem to be such as would sufficiently value the condescension, they are admitted.

Again, if one of the male INS marries an OUT she is also admitted, but it is pleasant to say that this sort of thing happens very, very seldom. On the other hand, if one of the feminine INS should display such incredible taste as to marry an our she is consigned to outer darkness.

Take the case of the Wainwright brothers. Clement Reeves Wainwright married the daughter of Thomas F. Dixon. More-over, was her mother one of the Biddles or was she not? Also, she is a niece of A.

or was she not? Also, she is a niece of A.
J. Dallas Dixon, who, as everybody knows,
is a manager of the ASSEMBLIES.

Now, there is a saying in Philadelphia
that if you offend a Dixon you offend 500.
Moreover, her mother was a Biddle. Did
Mrs. Clement Reeves Wainwright get in?
Oh, don't be foolish.

But as for Mrs. Frencis King Wainwright well, that's another story. Francis King Wainwright is a brother of Clement Reeves. lie married a daughter of United States Senator Foraker of Ohio. Her mother was NOT a Biddle. Nor was she related to the Dixons. Is she still OUT? She is.
But to get back to the ASSEMBLIES. It's

like saying that two and two are four, but znyhow, we're in for it now, and so let it be said that the first one was danced on Andrew Itamilton's Wharf. Later on they were danced at the Water Street Tavern, the State House, the Musical Fund Hall, in the Shakespeare Building and the Academy of Music, the latter place holding the house for a half continuous for a half century or so.

The history of the ASSEMBLIES has not been entirely peaceful. Whenever anything happened that hadn't happened at all the preceding ASSEMBLIES there was always a prodigious uproar. When the managers decided to abolish the stretches. a prodigious uproar. When the managers decided to abolish the standup supper and have the repast eaten at small tables there was a row that threatened the very existence of the function. The elder members all said that it just showed how things were going—if you didn't keep a tight hand on the young folks they were sure to make a mess of it. But for all that the radicals triumphed again two years ago, when they decided to desert the Academy of Music and hold the ASSEMBLIES at the Bellevue-Stratford, where they have since made headquarters

And there is still cited by way of horrible warning to the radicals of to-day the case of Miss Polly Richie, who in 1809 or something created a scandal at one of the AS-SEMBLIES by "standing up in a set that was not her own.

was not her own."

But though such epoch making innovations as these have greatly alarmed the conservatives the future of the assemblies looks fairly safe. You see, the committee of management and eligibility is a self-perpetuating body. It chooses its own successors whenever it thinks it wants any. There aren't any campaigns from the dis-satisfied or anything troublesome like that. In fact, it's a limitless oligarchy, and the only effective protest possible is to get out, and, well, some die—a few—

ut none resigns. Tradition rules here as nowhere else and there still prevails the law that existed when the daughter of Squire Hillegas left the elect involuntarily about the year 1787. The records state that Miss Hillegas sac-The records state that Miss Hillegas sacrificed all for love when she married "an extensive jeweller and goldsmith in High street." That finished Miss Hillegas. She took her extensive goldsmith and departed, and from that day to this oblivion has covered her with the shadow of its wings. Poor Miss Hillegas! The most comforting thing one can say for her is that she has at any rate been a long time dead.

But do not forget the brighter side of

But do not forget the brighter side of the picture—the law that admits the feminine out who marries a man who's in.
There's Mrs. Andrew Wheeler, happy
example. Andrew Wheeler belongs to the
iron and steel family and has also long
been away in. His brother is the gigantic
Beef Wheeler of Princeton football fame.
Andrew Wheeler married a Miss Jennie

Andrew Wheeler married a Miss Jennie Pierce. She was pretty, but she lived in the Wilds of Wallace street where the grass grows tall and lush in the summertime. But she's IN.

Behold, too, the happy fate of Miss Gladys Bradley of Pittsburg, where there be no assemblies. It was Miss Bradley's sister who married Anthony J. Drexel Biddle. Miss Bradley is now away IN and the heart of many a Philadelphian maid whose sister married no Biddle is indeed sore. There

SOCIAL WAR IN PHILADELPHIA are really not enough Biddles for the demand.
"For," said the witty Miss Edith Moore
Taylor, or so THEY say, "a Biddle is almost a
Cadwalades."

Cadwalades."

Also is to be mentioned the case of Mrs. Edward Moore Robinson. She was and is credited with being one of the most beautiful women in America, but you see how it is, she was born in San Francisco. Still she did her best to atone for it by marrying Edward Moore Robinson and was there, upon after a due interval invited in. And here is where she triumphed again. For although it has been two years since she got in she has not yet appeared at the ASSEMBLIES. All the INS agree that she had thus displayed impeccable taste. Had she appeared at the ASSEMBLIES promptly upon being invited Philadelphia would have been shocked. There was once a case—but why muckrake?

nave been snocked. There was once a case—but why muckrake?
And so it goes. You can seef or yourself by this time, if by any weird chance you didn't see it before, what it means to belong to the ASSEMBLIES Or, rather, what it means not to belong. You may go about in the very best society, be invited to dine and dance and lunch and receive with all the Eest People—even with all those who are Eest People—even with all those who are in. They may pretend amiably to receive you upon a perfectly equal footing. And you may emile and smile and pretend that you are having a really good time and that you're glad you're living and all that. But what's the use, when all the time there's that worm i' the bud, that canker gnawing in your breast? You're not in the ASSEMBLIES, and they are!

In your breast? You're not in the ASSEMBLIES, and they are!

Mrs. Frederick Thurston Mason, the Mrs. Paran Stevens of Philadelphia, is a kind hearted lady who does what she can to assuage the public grief. During the season she presides over the Monday dancing classes for debutantes. But only debutantes who are in are eligible to real mumbership. Others Mrs. Mason can and does occasionally invite as her guests, so that the ins and ally invite as her guests, so that the INS and the ours meet beneath the same roof in this manner. But after all it's only another drop of gall. If you're in you're in and life is lovely. If you're our you're our and you can never forget it. Kind words are all very well, but they won't restore a broken leg or make you think you've got a nose if haven't.

you haven't.

If this hasn't made clear the causes of the McFadden campaign nothing possibly could. Suffice it to say that, though Miss Katharine McFadden came out only this autumn, the campaign began last year, since when the McFaddens have entertained lavishly in divers ways, a box at the opera being one of the trimmings. But the invitations for this year's ASSEMBLIES are out and the McFaddens are not in.

It must be admitted that history furnishes little encouragement for the McFaddens. To be sure the E. T. Stotesburys beat down the moss grown walls in 1904. But Mr.

the moss grown walls in 1904. But Mr. Stotesbury was a financier with huge connections. Various young men of the INS stuck pens back of their ears in offices dependent for their success upon the Stotesbury genius. The year 1904 was a rather over season anybox. For it was then that open season anyhow, for it was then that the Theodore Cramps scrambled over the walls into the ASSEMBLES. Miss Ella McFadden, sister of Miss Katharine, got IN. to be sure, but it was by a flank movement. She married Edward Browning, who isof course, every one knows all about Fact is, if you're in the wall scaling line it's much more important to have somebody to pull than to boost. Well, the first of the two annual assem-

Well, the first of the two annual ASSEMBLIES comes off in January, the second in February and the usual large crop of headaches is expected to arrive on those two days. They say that there are more severe headaches among the OUTS on those two days than in all the rest of the year. Also many imperative calls to New York have to be answered on those days. And wouldn't it be just the fiercest kind of luck if somebody's middle name was spelled wrong in this story.

THE MANHATTAN CONCERT. Sammarco on the Stage and Bassi in

Box Please Audi ence. Joy over the loosening of the Sunday law was reflected by the audience and singers alike at the concert at the Manhattan Opera House last night. Those in the orchestra rows clapped, the gallery barked and the singers were graciously thankful.

M. Mario Sammarco seemed to be the favorite of the evening. He appeared on the programme twice and each time he "The Barber of Seville," which he rendered near the close of the concert.

M. Vittorio Arimondi tried out the gen-erous bulk of his bass on the "Calamity" humoresque from "The Barber of Seville," uch to the evident satisfaction of M. Bessi, who was taking a night off in a box by the side of the stage and who answered M. Arimondi's staccato passages in the song by winks and merry waving of the hands. Those who saw the passage between the two singers considered their little byplay one of the features of the aria. M. Adamo Didur, with the "Piff Paff" song from "Les Huguenots" and M. Armando Crabbe, givtwo short selections from Bizet Bemberg, completed portion of the male

Mme. Adelina Agostinelli rendered "Santuzza's Confession" from "Cavalleria Rusticana." Mme. Bressler-Gianoli sang an aria from "The Prophet." Shorter selections went to Mme. De Cisneros and Mme. Giannina Russ.

M. Campanini made the usual popular hit by conducting his orchestra through the overture to "Tannhauser."

THE METROPOLITAN CONCERT. Mmes. Homer, Cavalleri and Rappold Among the Soloists.

Nobody appeared disposed to interfere with the concert at the Metropolitan Opera House last night, although the audience was smaller than usual.

The soloists were Mmes. Homer, Cavalieri and Rappold and MM. Stracciari and Martin. Cavalieri's singing of an air from "Manon Lescaut" and, in the second part, "Manon Lescaut and, in the second part, of three Italian songs, won a reception that must have meant several recalls had recalls been permissible. Mme. Homer sang "Oh, Don Fatale" from the "Don Carlos" of Verdi, and Mme. Rappoid the only German song of the evening—"Dich theure Halle," from "Tännheuser."

from "Tannheuser."

Riccardo Martin's tenor was most agreeable in the "Romance de la Fleur" from "Carmen," and the "Ridi Pagliaccio" air from "I Pagliacci." Stracciari sang a selection from Verdi's "I Due Foscari."

Alfred Hertz conducted. One of his orthestra numbers was Elearis, march. chestra numbers was Elgar's march, "Pomp and Circumstance."

Eddle Foy All Ready for "Hamlet." Announcement was made vesterday with a straight face that Eddie Foy is to play "Hamlet." "By the terms of a contract entered into in Philadelphia Saturday," says the announcement, "Mr. Foy will give twelve performances of 'Hamlet' in twelve different cities next May under the management of A. Toxen Worm and Will A. Page. This arrangement, by courtesy of the Messrs. Shubert, will become offective in May." Mr. Worm and Mr. Page are both press agents.

are both press agents.

Howard Estabrook Married Miss Gretchen Dale, who played flast year in "The Boys of Company B" at the Lyceum The Boys of Company B" at the Lyceum Theatre, was married yesterday to Howard Estabrook, who played with her in the same production. The wedding took place at 2 o'clock in the afternoon in the chancel of Trinity Church. The Rev. Joseph W. Hill officiated. Douglas Fairbanks was best man. The father and mother of the bride and a few of the personal friends of both families were present. Mr. and Mrs. Estabrook will make their home at 4 West Fortieth street.

"The Tales of Hoffmann" in English. Oscar Hammerstein announced last night that at the end of the regular season of grand opera at the Manhattan Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffmann" will be put on in English for a spring and summer run. The lish for a spring and summer run. The cast will be composed of well known Broad-

SPORT IN THE HIGHLANDS FOR THE ALPINE CLIMBERS.

Up Into the Clouds With Alpenstock and So Forth-Hunting the Chamois on the Eleventh Floor, With Good Results -Popular Activity of Lower Broadway.

Plans are now being made by the sporting and athletic element in Wall Street for the opening of the mountain climbing season. The alpenstocks, the life lines and the Tyrolese hats are being furbished up, and as soon as the Singer Building opens up the climbing season will begin. It is expected that climbing parties will take the place of other amusements on Sundays, especially as on that day the elevators are not likely to be running. Tenants in the building are subscribing to the movement, because they want to be fit and ready in case the elevators go out of commission suddenly. Those who live in the thirties and forties, that is on the floors that high up, want to be trained for the emergency.

Climbing the Singerhorn is likely to be as popular a sport as ever the Alpine climber encountered. The management of the building realizes this and preparations are being made on an elaborate scale for the coming season. The janitors will have alpenstocks all prepared for the adventurous, and furthermore experienced guides will be on hand. Parties will be limited to five. A guide with the line about his waist will precede the climbers and the others will follow, linked together, with a guide in the rear. The smoothness of the steps will make the ascent difficult. The first three or four floors may be carpeted, to give the climbers confidence and courage, but after that it will take hardiness and daring to make the ascent

It is a beautiful day in the dull depth of vinter. The climbers assemble at the foot of the Singerhorn. The intrepid guide, Schmallwitz, who scaled the Flatironspitz, and the no less brave Schnauffler, who first achieved the pinnacle of the Metropolitanlifeberg, are yodling merrily while the party is being formed.

"O-la-la-he, O-la-la-he-ho!" bursts forth the triumphant cry, and from the foothills come the lowing of the kine, the neighing of the traffic squad horses and the baying of the St. Bernards. It is a party of the customary five that is about to try the dangerous ascent. Schmallwitz ties the rope about his waist and grasps his faithful alpenstock, which has burned on it the names of other daring climbs: Dinnerhorn, Frenchorn, Iceberg, Kaffenbergh, but no mention is made of his intrepid march from one end to the other of Lusitaniafrau. Schmallwitz cries out "Vorwaerts!" and the members of the party do so with lusty might and main. Hay foot, straw foot, hay foot, straw foot, they start the ascent, treading carelessly where the climbing is

And so for eleven stories they go upward, until they get into the regions of the Kleinsingerspitz. Then comes the daring work that stirs the hearts of the climbers. The first crevasse is to be passed. With hearts leaping high the climbers watch the splendid leaping high the climbers watch the splendid Schmallwitz as he takes a leap and is over, landing on hands and knees on the other side. He braces himself and in return catches the climbers one by one as they leap. It is a vast crack in the cement floor that they have cleared and pride beats in their hearts.

There are sportsmen in the group as the 40 express rifle of the mighty hunter Leovon Schneewitzenheimrosengarten shows. What prey does he expect? He has in mind to slay a beautiful chamois and bear it back to the lower ground in triumph. Suddenly he is all alertness. He has caught with the corner of the second or some ways things? of the spoor or some such thing of hamois. He bristles with eagerness.

All is excitement. Leo is calm and steady, however, as the experienced hunter must be after the first bewildering heart the programme twice and each time he appeared to be on the verge of giving an encore to the insistent demands of the audience. His Prologue from "I Pagliacci." the first number on the programme, pleased the audience better than the cavatina from the programme of the cavatina from the programme of the programme lined on a crag or a window sill against the sky is seen. Van Schneewitzenheimrosen-garten raises his fowling piece or was it an express or special delivery rifle? Bim! goes the gun. Hurrah! cry the climbers, and fluttering down a thousand feet goes the chamois left on the sill by the window cleaner. It was a perfect bullseye. En avant, mes enfants. Also, Tenemos que

They climb and they keep on climbing until they reach the high ball. Not the liquid refreshment alone, but the ball on the spire of the Singerhorn. And then they come down. They have to.

GIFTS TO STAGE CHILDREN. Annual Feast Marred Only by a Mishap to a Teddy Bear.

More than 400 children of the stage were made happy at Tony Pastor's Theatre and Tammany Hall last night. First they were entertained in the theatre by a "company of little actors and actresses from among their own number, then all filled up on turkey and other good things and finally each got a present.

The "artists" who appeared in the theatre ranged from 3 to 14 years in age. Baby Jackson, 4 years old, was down to sing "The Little Brown Bear." It was no fault of his that he had to stop right in the middle of the song. The heartless Teddy bear man was to blame. When he made Baby Jackson's Teddy Bear he put bad stuff into him. That was apparent when the left hind leg of the little brown bear dropped off when Master Jackson was giving it his hardest hug. One look at the maimed bear brought a sudden end to the song and also a storm of

tears.

Tony Pastor had just given Baby Jackson that bear before he went out on the stage and the "actor" thought a whole lot more of that than he did of the approval of the audience. Tony came quickly to the rescue. He grabbed the first Toddy bear he could find behind the scenes and rushed out on the stage with it. Alas, it was white, but the signer peretheless, went on happily. the singer nevertheless went on happily with "The Little Brown Bear."

Baby Tobin, another four-year-old, sang "Poor John," and then when the audience applauded she raised her tiny hand for a

econd and peeped.
"Now, we'll all join in together."
The chorus that followed made the theatre

ring.

Nearly all of the prominent actors and actresses in town were contributors to the festival. The leading spirit in it this year, as in previous years, however, was Mrs.

E. L. Fernandez.

E. L. Fernandez.

The presents were distributed in Tammany Hall's ballroom. These consisted of all sorts of toys, candy and articles of clothing. There was a fine frolic for the children in the ballroom afterward.

CLARK'S CRUISE OF THE "ARABIC" unusually steady. THE ORIEN

February 6 to April 17, 1908. Seventy days, costing only \$400.00 and up, including shore excursions. SPECIAL FEATURES: Madeira, Cadiz, Seville, Algiers, Malta, 19 Days in Egypt and the Holy Land. Constantinople, Athens, Rome, the Riviera, etc. TOURS ROUND THE WORLD.

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BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

The new six volume edition of Tennyson is edited by the poet's son, the present Lord Tempson, and the notes include a numb of Tennyson's own notes appended to the poems at different times and giving intersting facts concerning their origin. These volumes will contain a number of poems never before printed or printed in the poet's early life and immediately suppressed. There are also early versions which afterward became famous in a revised form and some interesting metrical

Gertrude Atherton will arrive in New York during the present week on her way from San Francisco to London. After a six weeks visit in England she will go on to Munich for the winter. Next year she intends spending the winter in New York.

The poetess and musician Carlotta Ferrari, who died recently at Bologna, was born about the middle of the last century. and her collected works, which comprise four volumes, have been recognized as valuable by the highest literary critics of her own country. Her poem "Dante Alighieri," in ten cantos, ran into several

A new work in process of preparation for boys is called "The Boys' Book of Steamships" and is written by Mr. J. R. Howden author of "The Boys' Book of Locomotives. It discusses simply the great problems with which the naval architect and engine builder are always grappling and gives a summary of the history of navigation and an account of the great shipping companies on the

"The Writing of English," by P. J. Hartog, with the assistance of Mrs. A. H. Langdon, has just been issued. Mr. Hartog sums up the plan of the book as follows: "The English boy cannot write and is not taught to write English; the French boy can write French because he is taught how to write; how the French boy is taught and how the English boy may be taught.

The publication of Mr. Stephen Phillips's Faust: A Drama," originally announced for Decembert, has been postponed until

"The Lady of the Decoration" is still making record sales. The book was issued twenty months ago, but the sale during the week anded December 7 was 15,000 copies.

Mr. Watts-Dunton contributes an article o the December Nineteenth Century called 'Dickens and Father Christmas." Taking the five Christmas books as the basis of his study he discusses the singular place that Dickens held in England some years before his death. Mr. Watts-Dunton endeavors to show that the novelist during his own lifetime developed into a myth among the populace of London who never had an opportunity of reading his books. He goes so far as to compare Dickens's case with that of the Archduke Joseph of Austria-Hungary (the Gypsy Archduke) who also during his lifetime developed into a myth in Hungary and Transylvania.

"The Appearances of our Lord After the 'assion," by Prof. H. B. Swete, to be published soon, is "a simple narrative of the appearances of the risen Lord based on a study of the documents," which will be interesting to psychic students as well as to scholars interested in the New Testament.

The idea proposed by Hugues le Roux o raise the standard of French literature circulating in America is taking definite shape in establishing at New Orleans the first central station for the sale of the higher class of French literary and scientific books, with a reading room attachment where lectures will be given every week. From thence French agents will travel, visiting libraries, bookshops and universities in an effort to cause the best French literature to reach all classes.

Francis Arthur Jones will publish in of "Thomas Alva Edison, Sixty Years of electrician's career from the time he pub-Hished a newspaper on board a train at fourteen and later was an out at elbows "tramp" telegraph operator until his electrical inventions caused the formation of a \$15,000,000 stock company. The book is the result of close acquaintance with and careful study of the inventor.

"The Mongols," which is to be published this week, is considered the crowning work of the late Jeremiah Curtin, Mr. Curtin is best known through his translations of "Quo Vadis" and other novels of Henry Sienkiewicz, but he was also a remarkable linguist, a great traveller and a close student of history. He spent the last years of his life on a history of the Mongol Empire. and his book on "The Mongols," now ready. will be followed next year by "Russia Under the Mongols."

Mr. L. Melano Rossi's work on the "Sautuario of the Madonna di Vico," which has appeared in Italy and in England, is attracting the attention of the architects and connoisseurs in this country. Mr. Rossi is an Italian scholar who is at the present time in America.

"Immortal Memoirs," by Clement Shorter, which is now brought out in an American edition, consists of addresses delivered originally before literary societies. The dedicatory titles "To the immortal memory of"-attach such names as Dr. Johnson, William Cowper, George Barrow and George Crabbe. One of these essays on "The Hun- strike.



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dred Best Books' is of special interest; it contains Lord Acton's list. Shorter's comments upon it and his own list of the hundred he considers most valuable. One somewhat startling statement which Mr. February of next year, under the title Shorter makes will furnish a theme for discussion among the critics: "From this point an Inventor's Life," the story of the famous | of view the poets before Cowper and Crabbe -Pope, Goldsmith, Johnson and otherswere scarcely poets at all. Masters of language every one of them, able to command a fine rhetoric, but not poets."

CHEAPER CHRISTMAS POULTRY. Turkeys Retailing at 18 Cents in Chicago -Geese to the Trade at 11 Cents.

CHIGAGO, Dec. 22.-Lower prices for Christmas poultry were quoted in South Water street yesterday and there is no likelihood of prices being tilted before Christmas.

The receipts of dressed turkeys nave been unusually heavy. Instead of selling for 22 and 23 cents a pound, as they did last year, it is estimated that the highest retail price this year will not exceed 19 cents.

Ducks are selling to the trade at 11 cents. a pound. Fat geese go at 11 cents and good chickens at 9 to 10 cents. The prices to consumers would range from two to three cents a pound above these figures.

ERIE SHOPMEN MAY STRIKE. Employees at Meadville Object to Increased Working Hours.

MEADVILLE, Pa., Dec. 22.-Unless favorable news comes from the New York offices of the Erie Railroad before ? o'clock tomorrow morning a strike will be declared at the Meadville shops that may spread over the line. Orders were received yesterday from General Manager Stuart to increase the working time of the men forty-sive minutes a day without extra pay. The 100 men decided at a meeting held last night to

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Requests by mail should state whether morning or afternoon tickets are desired, and what day. When time is not stated, no tickets can be sent, as we are not sure they would be used; and the demand is always far beyond the supply. The great number of letters makes it impossible to reply, except when tickets are enclosed. Tickets for the ENTIRE Holiday Week ready TODAY.

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of it from the world-famous maker, "Birch," of Loudon. Then there is a
broad assortment of Parlor and Library Suites, as well as separate pieces—all
at SUCH REDUCTIONS AS YOU MIGHT LOOK FOR IN FERRUARY; but which we have never known to be equaled in the past, in December, before Christmas. Here are a few items that speak for hundreds: Easy Chairs

Big, comfortable chairs and rockers and medium sizes; various shapes and fabrics; hardly anything so nice as an easy chair: 340 Arm Chair in tapestry, at \$26.
347 Arm Chair in velour, at \$36.
348 Arm Chair in tapestry, at \$36.
348 Arm Chair in tapestry, at \$36.
366 Wing Arm Rocker in tapestry, at
\$42.59...
360 Mahogany Arm Rocker in velour,
at \$40. \$75 English Arm Chair in fabric, at \$30 Wing Arm Chair in damask, at

\$90 Mahogany Arm Chair in velvet, at \$60. \$70 English Arm Chair in fabric, at 305 Wing Arm Chair in tapestry, at Leather Furniture

Baby chairs, devenports, sofas, rockers, arm chairs in various leathers, including a line of the celebrated English Morocco furniture by "BIRCH. OF LONDON." \$55 Easy Rocker, dark green leather, \$135 dark red Morocco Easy Chair, at \$44.

at \$100.
\$150 apple green Morocco Easy Chair,
at \$110.
\$160 tan Morocco Easy Chair, at \$120.
\$175 Sofa and Arm Chair, dark green
leather, at \$125.
\$228 Three-piece Suite, mahogany and
dark green leather, at \$150.
\$350 Davenport and Arm Chair, mahogany frames, dark red leather,
at \$210.
\$300 Turkish Davenport, in red Morocco, at \$240. \$58 Arm Chair, dark green leather, at \$45. \$75 olive green Morocco Arm Chair, at \$50. \$90 Davenport, in red leather, at \$65. \$110 tan Morocco Arm Chair, at \$65.

\$135 Morocco Arm Chair, at 890. \$110 apple green Morocco Easy Chair, at \$85. \$125 bright red Morocco Easy Chair, at \$90. rocco, at \$240. \$290 Three-piece Suite, in dark green leather, at \$250.

Vanishing Day for Some Fine

Oil Paintings and Water Colors

Prices on a group of specially desirable Oils and Water Colors, all handsomely framed in gilt, have been sharply reduced—in many instances by one-

canvases:	ave contrib	outed these
Oil Paintings—	Now	Formerly
Cattle and Landscape A. Barillot Autumn Landscape E. Loyal Field.	875.00	\$150.00
Caught in Storm	8105.00	3210.00
On Berkshire HillsJ. B. Bristol	880.00	3185.00
	8175.00	\$850.00
The Recital T. Heinz	\$125.00 \$50.00	\$175.00
Water Colors-		
Landscape and SheepS. Sedgwick	#32.50. #32.50	\$50.00
MarineNeil Mitchell	\$20.00	\$37.50
WoodlandJ. Northcote	\$20.00 \$20.00	\$35.00
Landscape and SheepAllan Fontaine Ninth floor, New Building.	\$30.00	350.00

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Book Store, Main floor, Old Building.

Women's Dresses and Suits At Tempting Holiday Prices

Just at the height of the season, when elegant gowns and suits are needed for formal and informal wear, and for handsome gifts, we have made sweeping price changes on several groups of imported and domestic garments. Some of these sharp reductions are noted below. Others at \$80, were \$125 to \$375.

Some of these sharp reductions are not DRESSES of messaline, taffeta silk, crepe de chine, silk-lined voile, broadcloth and plain and striped Panamas, in two-piece and princess style; some with lace yokee, others embroidered; trimmed with lace or folds of taffeta or valvet; some with Mandarin draped shoulder with undersleeve of lace; others made in one piece, at a haif dozen prices between \$18 and \$75. IMPORTED GOWNS from Worth, Tavernier, Drecoll, Raudnitz, Beer, Laferriere, Perdoux and Armond. At \$150, were \$375 to \$700.

IMPORTED TAILORED SUITS in beautiful broadclothe, tweeds and velvet, at \$50, were \$75 to \$115; at #75, were \$125 to \$145; at \$95, were \$150 to \$165. IMPORTED SUITS of velvet and combinations of velvet-and-cloth, at \$90. were \$135 and \$165.

DOMESTIC SUITS of imported broadcloth. At \$40, were \$62 to \$75.

Also great reductions on other lower-priced suits. Also fine assortment \$7.50 Walking Skirts at \$3.50

and \$8 to \$12 Skirts at \$5. FURS for Men Who Drive

Gift-suggestions that the man who is looking for a "brush" on the Speed-way on Christmas Day will appreciate. And every other man who hopes for a country drive or sleighride this Winter:

Fur Lap Robes, \$15 to \$35.

Fur Collars, \$5 to \$9.

And some other hints with a Christmas flavor from the Men's Hat Store:

Leather Hat Boxes, \$5.50 to \$16.

Opera Hats, \$5 to \$12.

Main floor, New Building.

Men's Gloves-Many Styles The gift of gloves cannot go amies. Here are the finest qualities, in a dozen or more styles, ranging in price from \$1.25 a pair for one clasp gloves to \$25 pair for handsome fur gloves. The selection includes the peeriess Raynier \$2.50 and the Royale at \$1.75.

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